

AMENDMENT TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the following numbered paragraphs:

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

[0001] The invention is based on a device with the aid of which bags can be stored or stored on an interim basis, to be precise in such a manner that they can then be processed by a packaging machine.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] ~~In order to achieve this object, the invention proposes a device having the features mentioned in claim 1 and/or a method having the features of claim 8.~~

[0006] Whereas, in the case of the known devices, the orientation of the individual bags is irrelevant, it is important for the present invention that the bags are oriented in stacks such that, as the roll is unwound, the opening side is oriented forward. At this point, the stacks of bags can be gripped by a gripping means and introduced into a feed means for the packaging machine. Packaging machines for which the device is intended required entire stacks of bags which all have to be arranged in a certain orientation.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

[0011] Further features, details and advantages of the invention can be gathered from the following description of a preferred embodiment of the invention, from the patent claims and from the abstract, which is worded in relation to the contents of the description, and with reference to the drawing, in which:

Figure 1

shows a vastly simplified illustration of the device according to the invention in a first stage;

Figure 2

shows the view of the leading edge during a later stage;

Figure 3

shows the state in which the first bag stack is being removed;

Figure 4

shows a further stage; and

Figure 5

shows the state where the bag stack has been transferred to the feed means of a packaging machine.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0012] Figure 1 illustrates, schematically, a device in which a roll 2 has been wound up on a winding-up roller 1.

The roll 2 is formed by a band-like film 3 with stacks of bags located thereon having been wound up onto the core. This winding-up operation is known per se. During the winding-up operation, the bags are oriented such that their openings are arranged on the trailing side, as seen in the winding-up direction, with the result that the openings are located on the leading side 4 during the unwinding operation, as represented by the arrow in Fig. 1. The bags are combined to form stacks, Figure 1 showing only a single bag stack 5. The stacks of bags have to be aligned, with the result that they form a defined leading edge and trailing edge. During the unwinding operation, the film 3 is guided rectilinearly, preferably horizontally, in a first instance and is then guided over a deflecting roller 6 such that an acute angle is produced between the two sections of the film 3. This means that the bag stack 5 is conveyed on horizontally and rectilinearly in the forward direction at the location of the deflecting roller, that is to say it projects beyond the roller 6.